



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

5 More Years

Memo to Noe Valley letter writers: The postal service will NOT shut down its branch at 4068 - 24th St. in December as it had planned.

Postal officials have worked out an "amicable" five-year lease with the building's owner, Ed Hogan, that will carry them through 1983.

The postal service was notified earlier this summer that their expiring lease would not be renewed because the building was being offered for sale. The branch has been on 24th Street for 16 years.

The Great Rebate on Prop. U: Renters May Reap \$50 Million

On the ground floor of a Noe Valley apartment building, a handful of political activists work at a near frenzied pace. The telephone rings constantly, and the stacks of political leaflets scattered around give the small office a look of organized chaos.

This is headquarters for the Great Rebate.

If everything goes well for them on Nov. 6, renters in San Francisco will find themselves richer to the tune of \$50 million, about the price for buying a couple of 747 jetliners or the San Francisco Giants about four times over.

That's a lot of money landlords would have to return to their tenants if City Proposition U passes, and a group called

the S. F. Coalition Against Rent Control is fighting the initiative with a well organized campaign.

"We expect a lot of money against us from landlords," says Ron Green, a member of the S. F. Renters' Rebate Committee, which sponsored the initiative. They also fear their opponents will wage a "scare campaign" in the final days before balloting.

The Rebate Committee literally is working on a shoe-string budget in comparison to the half million dollars they expect to have thrown at them. The Committee's budget by last month was barely \$3,000, and they need at least \$18,000 to wage an effective contest, they say.

The \$50 million rebate to tenants would come from apartment building owners who realized savings because of Prop. 13, the tax initiative measure that passed overwhelmingly last June and has resulted in substantially lower levies for owners.

Prop. U would do several things for tenants. First, it would rollhack rents to the amount they were on June 6 -- the day the Prop. 13 initiative passed.

Second, it would require landlords to actually reduce monthly rents by one-twelfth of whatever savings they realized under Prop. 13.

The ordinance, however, would permit them to pass along to tenants increased operating costs, to make capital improvements, and to make a fair return. Landlords will retain the property tax benefits of units they occupy.

The Rebate Committee has not taken polls of public opinion. But staffers point out that 70 percent of San Francisco residents are renters, about 4 percent landlords, and the rest homeowners.

"The homeowners should be technically neutral," Green said. "The question is who's going to sway the homeowners."

Originally, there were two rent initiatives on the November ballot, Prop. U and Prop. T. The latter was sponsored by four

(Continued on Page 3)



Persons over 55 are invited to do their grocery shopping at a "mini-market" held Tuesdays from 1:30 to 2:30 at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

Fresh fruit, vegetables, eggs, meat and poultry are available at a considerable discount.

The produce is provided by the Food Advisory Service, a Federally funded program.

Merchants Stirred Up

Thugs Thicken on 24th Street

By Leslie Phillips

A photo store chain is robbed three times in three months. The large front glass windows of five stores are broken one night. A gang of shoplifters hits three stores half a block apart in a matter of minutes.

It doesn't sound very familiar, but Noe Valley merchants have reported a rash of crimes within the last several months, and many are wondering just how to protect their stores and their livelihoods.

Since last spring, at least five armed robberies, three burglaries, seven cases of extensive vandalism and countless cases of shoplifting have occurred on and around 24th Street.

Noe Valley remains the least crime-infested neighborhood in its

precinct. However, Capt. George Jeffrey of the Mission Police Station admits crime in the Valley has increased to the extent that a second police officer has been added to the beat.

Although its effectiveness has been debated, many merchants are enlisting the aid of a private police patrol service. For \$15 a month, two private cops patrol 24th Street throughout the night to watch client stores.

Roselee Wangel, owner of Rahat clothing store, did not have to worry about security problems three years ago. Today, she takes more precautions, including an alarm system, the private patrol service, and a sentinel system with other merchants. Those using this huddy system

inform one another when they spot suspected professional shoplifters cruising the street.

"We've got it better in Noe Valley (than the Union Street area) because of the comradery among shopowners," she said. "The neighbors are sticking together."

Gordon Silveria, manager of Chrysallis haircutters, is resigned, seeing no way to combat the recent rash of crime. Having been shot at, held up at gunpoint and robbed, he seems a seasoned observer.

"All the special patrols in the world won't help. I feel like there is nothing to be done," he said.

Chrysallis has been open for 3½ weeks. In that time, the store has been burglarized twice, suffer-

ing the loss of a stereo, blow-dryers, leather shoulder bags, and more than \$500 in cash.

The latest incident occurred Sept. 23 and appeared to be a personal attack. Sprayed in silver paint across the shop's door and sidewalk were the letters "BAD CUT".

"We give terrific cuts," countered Silveria.

The most frequently cited reason for the sudden increase in crime is that the neighborhood has grown bigger and more popular and, therefore, more attractive to non-neighborhood people. But another reason is that 24th Street remains small, personal and, therefore, less secure.

"This street is known as an

(Continued on Page 3)

Letters 15c

Pointers on Bakke

EDITOR:

After reading the article entitled "Bakke: Byproduct of New Racism and Old Economics" by Lindy Brown and Sarah Smith in the August issue of the VOICE, I felt an obligation to bring out certain points that no one seems to be picking up on.

I am in general agreement with their viewpoint as well as some of the contentions that they report of Joel Dreyfuss in his book "A Choice of Victims". Blacks and other minorities have been and continue to be discriminated against in all walks of life in American society.

The reasons for allowing a member of such a minority group over a white person with the same or similar qualifications to gain acceptance, on the surface, seem more than just. An attempt is being made to correct injustices of the past and of the present. However, if one looks at what those processes that are employed to attain some of these very legitimate and just goals entail, then their validity and degree of effectiveness is very much brought into question.

What is actually happening is that opportunities are being taken away from one group of oppressed peoples and given to another.

In the 1960s civil rights protests and demonstrations produced many changes in this country. A byproduct of those changes was minority admissions programs. It was an institutional concession. To do this and maintain the elitist quality of institutions such as medicine and law, more positions were not opened or a system that would treat and judge people equally was not created; rather, they took away from one group (namely, working class whites) and gave to another (blacks and other minorities).

The institutions that make up the power structure and affect class divisions did not institute any programs that would bring about any permanent social and institutional change.

There is a backlash now. Those groups that were taken from are complaining and protesting...

The solution is to treat everyone equally... Factors of one's background and any attempts to overcome obstacles in one's life should be given greater weight.

Lower-middle and working class whites are discriminated against and excluded from many sectors of society also. However, blacks and other minorities are discriminated against more. The only ones that are not discriminated against are the ones that are controlling the institutions and its correlating power structure. These are the crucial points that seem to be ignored.

Equality is the basis on which you can rectify a wrong done in the past and achieve permanent change on the social and institutional level. The solution is not in a system of quotas that takes away from one group and gives to another. Quotas attempt to bring about change while maintaining the discriminating and exclusionary characteristics of the institutions. In effect, no social change is realized. All that results is a change in the group that is discriminated against. How can you rectify a wrong with a wrong?

Mark Cohen
315 Grand View

Bah on B of A

EDITOR:

Although the economics of running a free community paper are not familiar to me, I am sincerely wondering if you must accept Bank of America ads.

Bank of America makes very large loans to South Africa. It is actively supporting the racist policy of apartheid which that country blatantly states is necessary for the "safeguarding of the White race..."

Briggs is important. Bakke is important. Midwifery is important. And the freedom to live for the many Black, Coloured and Indian South Africans is also important. By accepting advertisements from the Bank of America, you are also supporting and disseminating the seed of the inhumanly gross policy of apartheid.

If you must, look harder elsewhere for ads.

Please check it out. The reasons behind apartheid and Briggs are connected by Big \$ and white supremacy... in any case based on myths and falsehoods...

I hope you find it so, and stop promoting B of A. Don't add to the power behind genocide, murder and racism...

Gloria Alonzo
166 Ripley St.



Urge Vote on Charter Changes

Many people believe that San Francisco's government is expensive, inefficient and wasteful. A major cause of this is the City Charter.

The present Charter fragments the responsibility and authority of the Mayor and Board of Supervisors and grants powers to numerous boards and commissions not responsible to the voters. It makes it difficult for citizens to be heard. Most importantly, it requires obsolete budget practices which make it difficult to manage government efficiently.

It is estimated that over \$20 million could be saved each year by improved data processing, employment practices and related reforms that are not now possible because of the present charter.

The Charter is lengthy and deals with many trivial matters that could be dealt with more effectively through ordinances. Witness the large number of charter amendments in the upcoming November election.

The Charter was written to handle the problems of the 1930s, not those of today and tomorrow. It is now 47 years old and has been amended over 500 times. The amendments are expensive to print, mail and implement, costing taxpayers much more in the long run than charter modernization would. They have left us with a Charter so confusing that few people understand it.

A YES vote on Proposition X will allow the election of a Charter Commission which will write a new charter, hold public hearings and submit it to the voters in a future election. If Proposition X passes, voters will elect 15 Charter Commissioners.

By passing Proposition L last June, the voters showed that they feel it is time to modernize the Charter.

Certain special interests are now saying that the people shouldn't have this opportunity to elect a commission.

I think it is the time to bring our city government into line with the times and to make it as efficient and effective as the people demand and deserve.

I urge you to vote YES on Proposition X.

Supervisor Harvey Milk

Walden House in Haight

Dear Mr. Milk,

In reference to the pending hearings concerning the new location in the Haight of Walden House, I urge you to support the Planning Commission and vote in favor of the move.

Walden House is probably the best therapeutic drug program in the City. To keep them from a better facility would be very sad when you think about the reasons people are against it.

One fear is panhandling. This is untrue since the residents are supervised and panhandling is not the route back to entry in "society", therefore not permitted. Another fear is of "drug fiends". Think about how people react to gays ... same space.

Walden House has a good record since its beginning and would be the only resident type program in the Haight...

...I hope you realize that people are involved -- with more at stake than property to sell or money to make.

The poor and handicapped, the minorities and alternate lifestyles are getting the short end of the stick once again...

Give Walden House a chance at the hearings. Listen to both sides openly -- and I hope you'll find the right way to vote in this matter.

Gloria Alonzo
166 Ripley St.

HARVEY'S RESPONSE: Walden House won. I held a large town hall meeting on this and led the successful floor fight.

District 5 Supervisor Harvey Milk would like to respond to your questions and concerns in this monthly column. Please send letters to Milk Harvey, THE NOE VALLEY VOICE, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, 94114.

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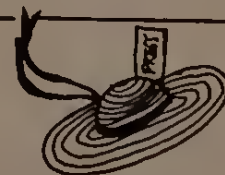
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Rebate...

(Continued from Page 1)

members of the Board of Supervisors -- President Dianne Feinstein, John Molinari, Ron Pelosi and Dan White.

But the Rebate Committee filed an informal protest with the State Fair Political Practices Commission on grounds that three of the supervisors were large property owners. The FPCC, just as informally, said the supervisors undoubtedly had a conflict of interest.

Feinstein owns a large apartment building, the Carlton Arms; Molinari's wife owns several residential units, and Pelosi owns a lot of commercial property. The supervisors decided to withdraw their support for the initiative.

But the remaining Prop. U still has caused a big ruckus in Noe Valley. The issues proved so controversial that neither the Friends of Noe Valley, primarily homeowners, nor the Noe Valley Merchants Association was able to take a position on the measure because of internal politicking.

Any meaningful vote at the Friends meeting Sept. 14 was thwarted because a significant number of "new members" showed up, mostly pro-landlord, and the Merchants meeting the week before degenerated into a no vote after a group of pro-renter members had their back-pocket full of proxy votes tossed out.

The Rebate Committee office is located at 4162 - 24th St. Phone: 826-3636.

Thugs...

(Continued from Page 1)

easy hit because most stores only have one person working in them," says Wayne Davis, who works at Rabat.

The experience of Fotomat supports this theory. The neighborhood store was held up three times -- on May 25, July 10 and July 25 -- by the same man, according to Mission Police. Mr. B's, a clothing boutique, was robbed Aug. 24.

Several other stores along the street have been vandalized. Most of the attacks appear to be the work of juveniles. Three teenagers cruised 24th Street on a spree of malicious mischief last June, breaking plate glass windows as they went.

Among those hit were Color-crane, the Acme Cafe and the Needle's Eye.

Tom Crane, owner of Color-crane, has had his windows broken twice in the last six months. He is worried that his glass insurance may be cancelled if it happens again.

Cindy Weideman of the Needle's Eye is angry because she can't afford to pay for other people's folly.

"It's senseless," she said. "There's no point to it." She has had to pay \$350 to replace her window.

Don Schultz, owner of the Serious Sandwich, claims to have

Doer's Profile

By Leslie Phillips

She is one of those rare women who flourish in their senior years. At age 72, Laverna Canatela says, "My enthusiasm has developed since I retired. It is better directed."

Laverna has lived in the same house on Elizabeth Street for 42 years. In 1939, after she moved to San Francisco from Minneapolis, she took a job as a bookkeeper, married and raised three children.

Then, in 1969, Laverna's husband died, and a lot of things changed. She joined an organization called the Catholic Widowers and Widows Association (CWWA) and began to share her seemingly unlimited enthusiasm, energy and optimism with a wider circle of friends and neighbors. She has since joined seven other organizations.

"I just want to continue to gad about the way I do and bring sunshine to people," she said.

Currently, Laverna is second vice president of CWWA. She is president, for the second time, of the Senior Club, sponsored by the S. F. Board of Education. She is co-chairperson of the Noe Valley Action Team of the Citizens' Action League (CAL) and publicity chairman of the Boutique de Noel of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

She is a charter member and secretary of Spring Gardens, a citywide senior citizens' center, treasurer of the McLaren Society, and an active member of Friends of Noe Valley.

"Maybe if I stayed home four days a week, I'd have a cleaner home," she said, gesturing around her immaculate livingroom. "But then maybe I'd be more frustrated."

Another advantage to being retired and independent of family obligations, Laverna says, is that she has more

a good rapport with the neighborhood thugs because "most of the troublemakers come in here for their sandwiches." A small hole, however, was broken in his front door by a rock, apparently thrown from a moving car. It cost him \$87 to repair the door.

Asked about the rising dependence on rent-a-cops, Schultz explained that a lot of merchants had been approached by the private patrol services. "We're still considered one of the lowest crime rate areas of the city. That's why it's hard to get regular police protection."



Laverna Canatela

With her granddaughter

time to devote to her religion.

A cursory glance about her house indicates that Catholicism is an important part of Laverna's life. A crucifix hangs on the wall opposite her front door; a rosary sits on a tabletop; a bust of Jesus and the Virgin share the mantelpiece with portraits of her grandchildren.

A member of St. Philip's Catholic Church, Laverna attends a daily mass and listens to the rosaries on the radio as often as possible. She owns two bibles, although she does not read either one, casually admitting that she has never been a reader.

Although she considers herself devout, Laverna objects to being called a "strict" Catholic, feeling that the term implies a certain rigidity.

"I want to be classified as part of the new philosophy," she said. "It is not a church

PROFESSION: (retired) bookkeeper

PASTIME: Bridge

PET PEEVES: Rudeness, negative attitudes

PETS: "I have no pets."

PAST: "I haven't any regrets. What's past is past. You can't do it over again."

PRESENT: "I love it just the way it is. Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha."

FAVORITE

AGE: My senior years, since I retired.

BOOK: "I'm not a reader."

CAUSE: Citizens Action League

COLOR: Blue. (It used to be black.)

COUNTRY: USA, of course.

ESCAPE: I take a nap.

IDOL: My mother

MEAL: Sandwiches. Ham or turkey on dark breads, Russian rye.

MOVIE: "San Francisco" (Clark Gable, Jeannette MacDonald)

MUSIC: Victor Herbert/Strauss' Skaters' Waltz/Rogers and Hammerstein

RELIGION: My own, Catholic.

THERAPY: Hiking

or a reformation. It is an attitude."

Social work and church activities aren't her only interests, however.

An avid card player, she plays bridge and whist with three separate groups, "when Laverna has time," she jokes.

She also has a weakness for public transportation systems. "I like BART best," she said.

Once while visiting relatives in Washington, D. C., she rode the entire subway system in one day -- 75 miles worth.

Last but not least, Laverna has a thing for sandwiches, particularly those of the turkey variety.

This summer, she and her "gentleman friend" of a year spent many a Saturday afternoon munching on turkeys at Candlestick.



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An utterly incredible thing happened at the Noe Valley Merchants Association meeting Sept. 11 -- the conservative/ reactionary bloc changed the rules in the middle of the game, stole a vote, and changed the bylaws on the spot to suit themselves.

The subject: endorsement of Renters' Rebate-Proposition U on the November ballot. I brought 11 proxies to the meeting -- merchants who supported Proposition U. I presented these in writing, in accordance with the bylaws, before the vote was taken. Tom Crane of Colorcrane was present and voted in favor of Prop. U, also. Including my vote, that meant 13 in favor. Six merchants voted against it: Bob St. Clair, President Del Dawson (whose store has been closed for a couple of months now), Paul Garvey of Books Plus, Louis Hopfer of Pyramid Realty, Don Schultz of Serious Sandwich, and Pauline Grosch of Antiquus Bibliopole. In addition, Dawson claimed a proxy from Patti Wood of The Wooden Heel, although he admitted he did not have it in writing at the meeting, as specifically required by the bylaws.

President Dawson (who, mind you, had previously stated he had two votes, his own and The Wooden Heel's), suddenly realizing I had 13 votes in favor of Prop. U, immediately ruled that NO PROXIES WOULD BE ACCEPTED! Of course, I was flabbergasted.

Dawson claimed that the way HE read the bylaws

proxies were prohibited in endorsement votes. RIDICULOUS! The bylaws were written by Dawson, Garvey and myself in 1976 and passed at the September meeting in 1976. Although there is some poor wording in the document, it was absolutely clear to all three of us when we wrote it that proxies would be allowed for political endorsements.

The very next month (October, 1976) after the bylaws were voted into effect, I brought five proxies to the meeting, all present agreed they counted, and we endorsed Proposition T (district election of supervisors).

Furthermore, the bylaws state that "voting by written proxies shall be permitted except as otherwise stated in these bylaws." The very next section of the bylaws speaks to political endorsements and does not say that there shall be no voting by proxy. However, a later section, addressing the annual election meeting (for Merchants officers), states clearly that "there will be no voting by proxy." Also, the last section of the bylaws, relating to amendments, says clearly "there shall be no voting by proxy." Those are the only two times that proxies are expressly prohibited.

I urge Noe Valley shoppers to voice your displeasure (and use your buying power) to those merchants who oppose Renters' Rebate.

Ron Green
Owner, Plant Works
Member, Renters'
Rebate Steering
Committee

The Rebate Debate Was Anything But Sedate

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to Mr.

Green's latest attempt to play the political czar of Noe Valley by his use of your pages to call down his righteous vengeance on those who are dastardly enough to disagree with him. By a series of half-truths and innuendoes he would have you believe that some of us are enemies of the renter (most of us rent), treat him unfairly (by his rules), have no right to our own opinions (his supercede), and should be subjected to neighborhood ridicule and economic disaster for something we really didn't do (but he says we did). In truth, I too am flabbergasted.

The fact is: Mr. Green did not have enough votes to pass his motion, even if we allow him full credit for every one of his claims. His figures may look like good arithmetic, but they are not the truth.

The fact is: Mr. Green is not the sole authority on the intent of the bylaws in an open meeting, only the chair has that authority subject to the will of the membership. He appealed the decision of the chair and lost that vote also.

In an attempt at revenge Mr. Green has suggested an economic boycott against those who oppose Renters' Rebate. To my knowledge, nobody did; they only opposed lending the Association name for a political endorsement, and no vote was asked for or taken on any other aspect of the issue. The endorsement was the real issue, not the initiative, and the attempt now to confuse the two in the public eye as a means to pit neighbor

against neighbor and merchant against merchant is shoddy and underhanded and a disservice to the entire Noe Valley community.

The primary aim of the Merchants Association is the promotion of the Noe Valley district and its merchants, and not to be a political arm for any group or person -- and that purpose is paramount over any individual's personal political commitments. This association is extremely reluctant to lend its name to any political cause whatever, whether good, bad or indifferent, and any other attitude would only cheapen the value of any endorsement we did make.

As the president of the Noe Valley Merchants Association, I am not concerned with Mr. Green's attempt to discredit my abilities as a chairperson, and he is more than welcome to continue that effort starting at the next Association meeting Oct. 9. But I am concerned with his attempt to render harm to his fellow merchants by using these pages to indict them and their organization with distortions of fact. This alone is the reason for any response from me, the rest is just so much bickering.

We will continue to have candidates, ballot measures and initiatives in copious amounts, but an endorsement by the Noe Valley Merchants Association will be a rare thing indeed.

Del Dawson
President
Noe Valley Merchants Association

soul-search

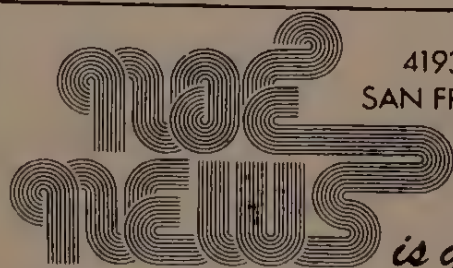
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The NOE VALLEY VOICE invites you to use this forum to express your righteous indignation, surly retorts, prissy attitudes, narcissistic nit-picking, overblown self-images, and holier-than-thou back-stabbing, two-timing, cheap-shot comments.

Submit diatribes, no longer than 400 words, to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., 94114.

The views expressed here are solely those of the authors.

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BODY IN MIND

By Claudia Deyton, R.N., M.S.

The Bay Area has experienced an explosion of alternative health care in the past few years, an explosion that has accompanied the growth of the "human potential movement." There is a virtual cornucopia of alternative healing techniques and systems -- from meditation, macrobiotics, yoga, bioenergetics, fruitarianism, vegetarianism, acupuncture, reflexology, polarity therapy, jogging, herbology, homeopathy, urine therapy to psychic healing. There are the fanatics and self-proclaimed "healers", as well as the aficionados and true practitioners. So much is available that it often becomes confusing.

The purpose of this column is to dispel some of that confusion by presenting information about a variety of alternative healing methods as well as helpful self-health suggestions. This column will be responsive to your concerns, so if you have any questions, please send them in.

A good starting place in talking about health is looking at our attitude. No matter what healing method we choose, our attitude is going to greatly influence its effectiveness. Our attitude itself is influenced by our beliefs about our bodies and how they work, our expectations about the effectiveness of the healing methods we are using, and our day-to-day life experiences. The connection that illnesses have to our daily life experiences may not always seem apparent.

Self-responsibility is one of the central ideas of the human potential movement. People have often interpreted this to mean self-blame. Many people suffer most from "giving themselves a hard time" for the problem they are experiencing with their body. Energy that is spent blaming ourselves for our body's breakdown is energy that is not being used in healing. Even more unfortunate is the person who feels totally victimized by his or her illness. When a person becomes such a victim, he/she is totally powerless to do anything about the situation. This sense of helplessness and often hopelessness can be paralyzing.

Illness does have meaning in our lives and part of the healing process is discovering that meaning. People must recognize and accept that self-responsibility is not self-blame. A body part that breaks down gets our attention and causes us to refocus. This act is a realization of our current situation and demands a response ... response-ability, personal responsibility.

If at the end of the healing process, we are truly well and not just temporarily free of symptoms, we will have discovered the meaning of the illness in our lives, changed the unhealthy practices that led our body to break down, and decreased our vulnerability to such breakdown in the future.



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On Riding Muni

MUNI TIPS

This is meant to be a guide of handy tips on riding San Francisco public transportation, which is called Muni, for lack of a better one.

Realizing the various levels of expertise people have on riding Muni, I have divided the tips into three categories: beginner, intermediate and advanced Muni rider.

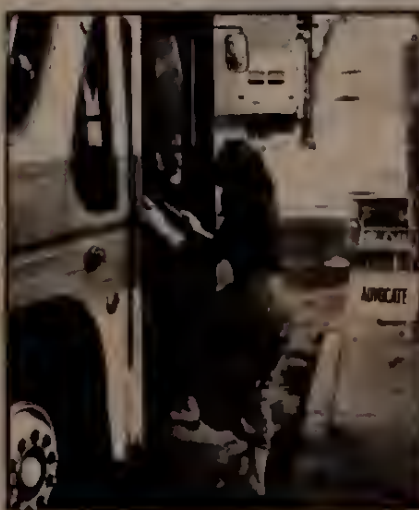
I also may answer some questions often asked about Muni. Why is there never a bus? Who is Muni? Why are the trolley cars so cute? Why does Muni have so much management and such poor service? Why ride Muni? Is there a way to improve Muni service?

For the Beginner

Muni is an attractive, economical, energy-saving, easy to use alternative to automobile travel within San Francisco. Many civic organizations recognize this value in Muni and ride herd on management in an effort to improve Muni service. These civic organizations write countless letters to Muni and to our elected officials. They ride Muni by writing letters.

TIP 1: IF CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS WOULD RIDE MUNI BY RIDING MUNI, NOT JUST WRITING MUNI, THERE COULD BE A NOTICEABLE IMPROVEMENT IN MUNI SERVICE OVERNIGHT.

For the Intermediate



The photo above left shows the proper Muni riding position (Phase I). It is called Stepping Up. It's not as easy as it looks. The buses come infrequently at times; at other times, not at all. There are other hazards and risks encountered in riding Muni. For example, you dare not describe Muni management as political hacks, bureaucratic-pencil-necked-geeks, neo-fascist-crypto-communistic perverts, turkeys, ducks, clowns, fools and idiots, or else. (See photo above right.)

TIP 2: IF JUST SOME OF MUNI'S OFFICE WORKERS WOULD WORK IN THE MUNI GARAGES, MUNI MAINTENANCE COULD IMPROVE OVERNIGHT.

The basic Muni riding position (Phase II) is easy at certain times of the day and very difficult at others. It is called Sitting Down. For the beginner, I recommend riding Muni during the day and evenings. For the intermediate, who has mastered the Stepping Up and Sitting Down, I recommend writing letters.

TIP 3: CLOSING MARKET STREET TO THE PRIVATELY OWNED AUTOMOBILE IS A CHANCE FOR THE PUBLIC TO HAVE DECENT, DEPENDABLE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION. WRITE TO YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS IN SUPPORT, IF YOU COULD.

For the Advanced

It's easy and fun to ride Muni. Most drivers are courteous and friendly; most buses are clean and well lighted. For one-quarter dollar you can go anywhere in the City slowly and peacefully and enjoy beautiful San Francisco.

TIP 4: IF THE STRONG AND UPRIGHT WOULD RIDE MUNI DAY AND NIGHT, THE WEAK AND DEFENSELESS WOULD RIDE SAFELY.

By "Bus" Webb

An Eyeful Of Local Art On Display

The Noe Valley Ministry Arts and Lectures Forum got off to an impressive start last month with the opening of its Exhibit of Noe Valley Visual Artists.

The paintings, sculpture, photography, ceramics and mixed media works of 44 local talents will be on display Tuesdays through Saturdays until Oct. 14, noon to 4 p.m., in the church's sanctuary, 1021 Sanchez St.

Among the luminaries in the show are collaborators Ruth Asawa and Bruce Sherman, whose pair of wire and stained glass sculptures sell for \$6,000 each; Mark Adams, showing his multi-colored geometric-design

tapestry woven by the S. F. Tapestry Workshop; Ray Sells, who has had a one-man show of his sculptures at the Palace of Legion of Honor, and Dorie Tuttle, exhibiting oil and watercolor paintings.

Other notable contributions: silver and copper jewelry by Naomi Thompson; a "Music Shirt" by Amy Tuss; surrealist collages by Kate Magruder; abstract watercolors by Joyanne Dreyer; Cecily Geldmacher's fiber mandalas; pen and ink drawings "depicting the fall of the Byzantine Empire or the invention of aluminum siding" by Patricia Peynoso; painted and embroidered tie-dye by Susan Nicholas; Ed Buryn's photograph of Grand Canyon visitors called "Tourists"; and delicately patterned watercolors by Karol Barske.

A percentage of the proceeds from the sale of works will go toward the purchase of a grand piano for the Ministry.

Accompanying the exhibit will be a series of "Conversations with Local Artists" at the Ministry. On Oct. 11, painters Margaret Meany and Lee Adair Hastings, along with ceramic artist Ruby O'Burke, will talk about the

state of their art, their materials, goals and values.

Tapestry artist Mark Adams and sculptor Ruth Asawa will be the guest artists Oct. 25. Both events will start at 8 p.m.

Also as part of the Arts and Lectures Forum, the Ministry will present a series of musical and dramatic performances, including a special program for children at 2 p.m. Oct. 7. That same evening a group of Noe Valley musicians calling themselves "Moire Pulse" will play their hand-crafted instruments at an 8 p.m. performance.

Local filmmakers Jane Aaron, Leonard Levy, Steve Michaels, Murrey Mintz and Ann Page will show and discuss their films Oct. 14, also at 8 p.m.

For further information on these and upcoming Forum events, call Carl Smith at 282-2317.

Shown at left are Lee Adair Hastings' oil painting "Rainbow Squadron" and Bruce Sherman standing beneath a sculpture he co-created with Ruth Asawa. The porcelain and china paintings are by Gay Kleinberg.

IN NOE VALLEY

A prolifery of cats
Live in Noe Valley:
Black ones,
Golden-eyed ones,
A weimaraner
That thinks
He's a cat;
A little girl
That
Would like
To be
A cat.
We all live
In Noe
Valley,
In butter-
Eyed
Innocence,
Striking friendships
Like sails
In flight;
Hill-walking
Down rain-days;
Sniffing
God's trumpets;
And praying
For grass.
We wear
Masks

In Noe
Valley,
And costumes,
And earrings,
And turn
Cartwheels
Down streets
That lumber
Like bears
And crisscross
Like hotcakes.
We take
Our time
In Noe Valley,
Petting coffee
And sipping
Each other's
Thoughts.
We are poets
In Noe Valley,
And cats
In Noe Valley,
And little
Girls
That
Would like
To be
Cats
In Noe Valley.

By Alice Rogoff



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Frankly, My Dear, It's Not Clark Gable

By Frank Allen

"Did anyone ever tell you that you look like Clark Gable?"

That's a question Jim Frisbie hears frequently. Frisbie, who you may see sitting around drinking coffee and chatting with his friends at the Meat Market Coffee-house on 24th Street, is a dead ringer for Clark Gable. Countless people have mistaken him for the movie star ever since Frisbie was a teenager, some 30 years ago.

Strangers have approached him on the street, grabbed him by the hand and told him, "I've always wanted to meet you." Often no amount of explanation will do any good; as far as they're concerned, he's Clark Gable, and that's that. The King of the Silver Screen has been dead since 1960, but there are thousands of people who either don't know it or refuse to believe it.

This is old hat to Frisbie, but he is unfailingly gracious and friendly to what is, in fact, his public. He always takes time to sit and chat with people who want to meet him, and there are many. He has come to expect it over the years, and frankly admits

that he enjoys it. For a minute he becomes Clark Gable in the flesh, greeting the star-struck, talking to them and shaking their hands.

Frisbie's pleasant, easy drawl and warm baritone are very like the King's, especially if you are half way on the road to believing already.

During most of his life Frisbie was too busy living his own life to think much about this unusual feature. But over the years he has discovered that there are many similarities between him and Clark Gable, apart from the remarkable facial resemblance.

He's about the same height -- between 5'9" and 5'10" -- and his weight fluctuates between approximately the same limits, at times between 185 and 190 and at other times between 165 and 170.

He does not have the big bands the King was noted for, but his feet are the same size. He found this out by standing in Gable's footprints in the cement in the courtyard of Grauman's Chinese Theater in Hollywood. The match is practically perfect.

While Frisbie was down in Hollywood recently to attend

the Emmy Award ceremonies, he was asked by one of his friends, "Did you know that Clark Gable was hard of hearing?"

"What did you say?" was Frisbie's rejoinder, which occasioned a laugh. It happens that Frisbie is a little hard of hearing, the result of a mugging in the 1940s.

He has lived on the West Coast most of his life, growing up in Oregon and coming to live in California after an 18-month stint in the service in 1946-47. Frisbie met and married while attending school in San Francisco. He and his wife lived in Oregon part of the time and then San Francisco before moving to their present home in Petaluma.

Now that he has finished raising a daughter and two sons, Frisbie can pay a little more attention to the fact that he attracts a good deal of attention.

Last year he was the guest of 4-Country's Jeff Simon, who took him down to Universal Studios. He lunched with studio executives and later took a tour of the lot. He was passing a tram full of tourists when the driver



Who is this man (it's not who you think it is), and what is he doing in this newspaper?

announced over his radio, "If you'll look to your right, you'll be able to see Clark Gable." And the tourists poured off the tram, cameras at the ready, crowding around and wanting to shake Frisbie's hand. He, of course, obliged.

Frisbie has not attempted to capitalize on the resemblance although he has been approached by several advertising companies with tentative ideas for commercials.

Although he has moved a few miles away, Frisbie still comes back to see some of his old friends in the Valley and drink a little coffee with them now and again. Perhaps you'll have a chance to see him. It's an unusual experience. It won't be long before you're convinced it's really Him.



The emphasis of the Noe Valley Poets Workshop, led by poet Stephanie Mines, is on reading and discussing participants' work. It does, however, cover a lot of other ground, including writing exercises and discussion of established poets' technique. A CETA-funded program, the workshop meets Mondays at 7:30 p.m. at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. A \$1 use fee is requested to pay for Ministry space. Photo by Roger Burd.

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NOE VALLEY, 2028:

The Prisoner Exchange

©1978 by Yves Barhero

"Ronald Mulpteters, the new radical president of Castro Area, has announced that the influx of refugee gays from all parts of North America is creating an unhearable hurden for his community. In a speech before the Peers of Castro, he demanded that Noe Valley make immediate territorial concessions..."

Tom turned off the FM and looked up from his keyboard at the green computer screen. He reviewed the numbers he had just punched and decided that they were probably valid. He placed the information in memory storage and keyed the date 281003. Then he cleared the screen.

It immediately flashed INCOMMESS.

Tom ignored it. First coffee. He hadn't moved from the screen in six hours and he didn't plan to answer a lot of incoming messages right at the moment. He glanced at the service monitor, walked over and dialed COFBXSTR.

His apartment didn't have what might be called a kitchen. Not properly, at least. Still, most people called their "monitors" kitchens. Tom didn't. A monitor was a monitor. Besides, in Iowa, where he was born and raised, they did have places which could truly be called kitchens.

He had not been successful as a member of an agrikib. He wasn't cut out to be a farmer. He was handy with electronics and the kibbutz' limited supply had left him bored. The elders had traded him without regrets to the World Computer Combine (WCC) after he had rigged all the screens on the 200,000-acre agrikib to show the largest hull clutching a cow.

Being traded was what he had wanted although WCC was the shadiest of the world's five mega-corporations. The WCC, headquartered in New Jersey, immediately recognized his talent. From the age of 12, when he was traded, to 20, he went to WCC schools and eventually earned their highest honor, the coveted CL-A certificate. It was no mean accomplishment. Of WCC's six million employees, only 3,000 persons possessed it.

It meant that he could do his work any place there was a terminal. In the year 2028, that meant virtually any place in the world.

The first place new CL-As usually headed for was Noe Valley in San Francisco. The Sixteen lived there. They were the most brilliant of WCC's staff of CL-As.

Tom didn't. He traveled around the world. Europe, India, China and Japan. Anywhere he could learn about WCC's operations. Only at the age of 30 did he finally set foot in Noe Valley. By that time, his reputation was firmly established.

Tom took the cup from the service monitor and drank. It was real coffee and deserved to be sipped. He lifted the cardboard from the face of the digital and saw that it was seven in the evening. The tape holding the cardboard over the face of the clock needed replacing, so he went for fresh tape. One of his quirks was that he couldn't stand to have digitals constantly broadcasting the time. But they made none with covers so he had improvised.

The screen at the other end of the apartment suddenly went on and announced, "Emergency override!"

■■

"Is there a fire?" Tom asked.

"Negative," the machine said.

"Then shut yourself off!"

"No shutoff possible. PolDir, Mr. Williams."

The screen went on at that moment and the face of Andrew Smith appeared. Smith was Noe's First Friend for Security.

Tom knew instinctively that it was a recording and quickly harked his code. "CL-A 2197 hlock!"

The screen immediately went blank. There was no way he would allow his first coffee of the day to be interrupted by some official nonsense.

Fifteen minutes later, the screen again showed an emergency override. This came from LC-A Frantz, one of the Sixteen, and Tom couldn't hlock it without getting a reprimand from WCC. That he did not want.

This override was a recording, too. The face of Frantz, aging and noble, appeared. "My dear Tom. You must respond to Friend Smith's call. You must be available for community service if you're to live here. Kindly call him with the hour."

"Bastard!" Tom said.

"Repeat request," the machine said.

"Shut yourself off, dammit!" Tom shouted at the thing. Though Frantz had addressed him in soft, comradely tones, Tom knew it was an order and ceased resisting. He swallowed his coffee and went to the screen. He punched LIST INCOMMESS/TEMPSEQ!

On the screen appeared:

TEMPSEQ INCOMMESS FOLLOWS:

01: Offer sex contact: Louise Manning 687344

02: Daily Bank Balance: \$56,789.34 Euro.

03: Laundry sequence complete. Instructions?

04: EmOv: Andrew Smith, NFFS: CALL 411 PRIORITY

A red light flashed on both sides of 04. The machine listed 14 other INCOMMESSs. Most were for sex contacts. Tom punched answers to the first four.

01:NEG / 02:ACKN / 03:OK-DEL / 04:ACKN-Detail follows: Personal call. Dial 411 / HOLD OTHER INCOMMESSs ** ENDSEQ!

The face of Andrew Smith appeared. It was a recording. "The community presses you into service the evening of October 10 at 9 p.m.

Appear in person on northwest corner of 24th and Sanchez. Clothing mandatory. Recommend jumpsuit. Wear sidearm. Rifle will be supplied." The face disappeared.

Tom punched, DETAIL LAST INCOMMESS!

DETAIL INCOMMESS 04 FOLLOWS: Prisoner exchange with CASTRO AREA.

Tom saw he wasn't going to get any more work done that night. He got up from the console and went to a bureau draw. He pulled out the holster containing his .38 revolver and strapped it on. He'd moved to Noe Valley only two years before and this was the first time he had ever been called. He knew that Castro Area was in the midst of political upheaval. It was bound to affect him personally sooner or later.

He left his spacious two-room apartment and walked to 24th. His house was on Elizabeth near Chattanooga so it wasn't much of a walk, and he had an hour to kill. He hadn't been out in two days, having depended on his "kitchen" to feed him.

Noe had three community kitchens and one was situated nearby on 24th and Sanchez. It was large and took up a good portion of the block. Tom didn't consider entering. He hadn't eaten but this was the vegetarian kitchen, and he didn't feel like eating seaweed. Being a stocky Iowa Boy, he preferred beef.

The vegetarian movement had grown over the last 60 years as more and more missionaries from India had landed and their influence was felt. Fortunately, thought Tom, it hadn't touched Iowa. Conservative Iowa had rejected the term "commune" even though it was now the only way farming was done in North America. They had borrowed the term "kibbutz" instead. Even if it meant the same thing, at least it was in a foreign language.

■■

A woman approached Tom. She was dressed from neck to foot in a long flowing dress. He was on his guard. Such modesty usually spelled a religious affiliation, something he didn't trust. "Why are you wearing a sidearm?" she asked.

"There's a prisoner exchange tonight. I'm one of the bodies they pressed into service."

"So am I," she said and pulled out a small laser pistol from one of the pockets of her dress. "What's your name?"

"Tom."

Her's was Cynthia. He found out that far from being a Hindu or Christian fundamentalist as he first thought, she was pleasantly atheistic like him. She had borrowed the dress because none of her clothing had pockets in which she might put her little laser. He also found out that although she handled the weapon gingerly, she had placed first in the last AH Noe Weapons Meet. Tom had placed 31st the year before and hadn't participated this year.

They talked a bit about politics. How Noe Valley, with all its artisans and WCC technicians (and thus its wealth) was being encroached upon by Castro Area. Castro was one of three areas in North America where homosexuality was openly accepted and the only place where homosexuals actually dominated in politics. They were repressed everywhere else due to the growing influence of the Anita Party. In fact, Castro Area now extended to North Beach. Only Noe Valley and Latino Mission Village were independent of Castro's influence. Noe, because of its wealth and elaborate security and Latino because of its cultural roots.

There had been an uneasy peace for years between the three main communities of San Francisco. Now there was talk of an alliance between Latino and Noe against Castro.

The conflict between the communities had nothing to do with prejudice. In fact, homosexuality was accepted in Noe Valley. It had to do with space. Castro was feeling the population crunch as more and more gays were retreating there under the onslaught of the Anita Party. A radical party had taken over Castro, and its demand for additional territory was unacceptable to Noe. The Valley (the government) gave a flat no and cut off long-standing financial aid. Castro retaliated by arresting Noe's representative to the area. Noe did likewise.

They were flexing their muscle. But after a week, each had to back down. Noe because of its relatively small population. Castro because it feared WCC reprisals. Thus the exchange. The Friends promised to restore aid if the exchange went smoothly.

But things were not so quiet that arms weren't required.

■■

Nine o'clock rolled around and the six members of the exchange party and their prisoner entered a van.

The prisoner was a small man dressed only in tight shorts with a leather strap over his shoulder. He wore a well trimmed beard and seemed uncomfortable in the group of armed men and women. If there were any trouble, he would be the first to feel the laser or bullet and he knew it.

The border was 20th Street. Tom was placed on a roof of a building. He had a telescoped laser rifle. Even an idiot could be a dead shot with one of those.

The proceedings took exactly two minutes. The two vans met each other. The prisoners walked across the white line border at the same instant. Both vans sped back to their respective districts.

At that point, Tom retreated.

NEXT TIME: Tom Finds Someone to Love

Mini News

Starting this month, the Parents' Lobby will offer a phone-in School Line to all parents of public school children in San Francisco. Any parent having difficulty with either a particular school or the district office can call 552-6741 and ask for help.

During the day, this number will be answered by an answering service, which will take your name and phone number and have a member of the Lobby get back to you as soon as possible. In addition, members of the group will be on hand to answer the phone at least two nights a week.

Those interested in learning more about this service or becoming a member of the Parents' Lobby can call Steve Abrahms at 647-0904, Lynn Rogers at 641-1790 or Walt Park at 621-0389.

Kid's Corner Co-operative Nursery School has openings in its fall session for children ages 2½ to 5. The three-hour-a-day program includes music, art, movement, cooking, yoga, science, field trips and snacks. Kid's Corner is located at 29th and Church Streets at the junction of the Mission, Noe Valley and Glen Park areas. The school welcomes children of diverse ethnic backgrounds. Parent participation is required.

Call 334-4315 or 333-8447 for additional information.

CLASSIFIEDS

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RUGS: Piled carpeting with pads. Green, 12 x 12, \$100. Orange, 12 x 15, \$125, firm. Helen Walsh, 556-7610, days.

MOVING? Call Starving Students. 863-4500.

Having a garage sale next month, want to wish "Happy Birthday" to a friend? For \$1, you can get 25 words in a VOICE classified ad. Send to NOE VALLEY VOICE, 1021 Sanchez St., 94114.

This ordinance was hard to pass for the simple fact that no one could talk about it without snickering," commented District 6 Supervisor Carol Ruth Silver. But pass it did. The so-called dog feces ordinance will go into effect Oct. 20.

Modeled after a New York City ordinance, the law will require San Franciscans to clean up their pets' public doings. Failure to do so will result in fines: \$10 for the first offense, \$25 for the second, and \$50 for the third.

Speaking to a Friends of Noe Valley gathering last month, Silver made a pitch for compliance: "Dog shit is the number one complaint of everyone. We all know that when we walk down the street and slip and slide in dog feces, it's dangerous, unhealthy and decreases substantially the quality of life in our city."

ED. NOTE: The controversial "bird-turd" bill has been dropped for lack of support.

Peter Day, at least for the day, was the very best pool player on 24th Street, winning the \$32 top prize at an eight-ball tournament at Finnegan's Wake bar.

Mark Waldheim captured the second place \$20 prize money and John Bernard got \$12 for his third place finish during the Aug. 12 contest.

Thirty-two players paid \$1 each to participate and the bar matched the kitty. Finnegan's plans another tournament sometime this fall.

A READER'S DOZEN: New Arrivals at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St.	
Brower	The Starship and the Canoe
Caldwell	Cross-Country Skiing Today
Coles and Hollowell	Women of Crisis
Epstein	Kabbalak: The Way of the Jewish Mystic
Friends of the Earth	Progress As If Survival Mattered
Newfield and Dubrul	The Abuse of Power: The Permanent Government and the Fall of New York
Rader	Miracle
Rich	Dream of a Common Language
Snodgrass	For Men Against Sexism
Gertrude Stein	How To Write
Schell	In the People's Republic

Where the Child Things Are: A Parents' Guide to San Francisco Resources" is a directory recently published by JACKIE, a foster home recruitment agency.

Included in the directory are listings for medical care, legal services, after-school care, children's classes, special schools, programs for disabled children, tutoring, places to take children and parent education programs.

The 75-page book was compiled by Jan Zobel, co-editor of the People's Yellow Pages, and is available by sending \$3 to JACKIE Resource Directory, 2940 16th St., Room 200-8, San Francisco, 94103.

The Friends of Noe Valley has a new lineup of officers. Elected unanimously at the Friend's Sept. 4 meeting were:

Alix Dilworth, president; Lou Hopfer, vice president; Walter Knoepfel, treasurer, and Suzanne Smith, secretary.

New committee chairpersons are Anita Banash-Arlen, planning; Sally Brunn, library; Al Lanier, library garden; Barbara Hopkins, Coalition of S. F. Neighborhoods; Henry Sanz and Sam Pockets, cleanup; Bill Kuhns, recreation and parks; Lucia Edwards, membership; Sally Marks, newsletter; Dan Triolo, education; Del Dawson, merchant liaison; Carl Smith, transportation; and Ron Green, housing.

All of the terms are for one year except for Dilworth, who will serve six months.

Star Trek
By Cindy Bernstein

CUTIE QUILTS AND GIFTS
4069 - 24th St.

Shopping for an erotic toilet seat cover? Stop in and browse at Cutie Quilts and Gifts at 4069 24th St. any day of the week (except Sunday) between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. The Adam and Eve commode covers and pillows are just one example of the many unique and attractive items that this new gift shop offers.

Cutie Quilts specializes in patchwork pillows and children's and baby's quilts designed by co-owner Nora Kan. Oriental jackets and vests made of silk and nylon are available at very reasonable prices.


Kan and Sharon Moy also display stuffed animals and dolls ("Soft Folks" handmade by Karen Tucker and Susan Davis), hanging sculptures, mobiles, and pillow picture frames.

Don't know what kind of wine to take?

Take wine glasses instead.



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Vinyllites

By D. Lawless

DARYL HALL & JOHN OATES:
"Along the Red Ledge" (RCA)

Hall & Oates' most consistent and commercial album to date is chockfulla juteboxa material. They've been dismissed by some critics as "shrewd shapers of fetching hits," but there's no avoidance of humanity here, as evidenced by their intelligent, multi-level lyrics. With the sleek interplay between Hall's falsetto and Oates' baritone, they dart in and out of an astounding variety of music. Side 1 is soft soul with a crunchy beat, whereas Side 2 is more experimental in nature, with an intense, brutal feel and vibrant metallic ring. They juggle a myriad of forms and textures, from simple melodic pop to hard rock, from jazz fusion to the symphonic rock of ELO and Phil Spector and back again to their soul-styled hase. As far as I'm concerned, it's terrific: one of the finest albums of the year.



DOLLY PARTON: "Heartbreaker" (RCA)

Continuing the departure from her country roots, "Heartbreaker" is the closest Dolly's come yet to full-fledged pop. She handles the usual dramatic ballads with typical aplomb and sounds just as comfortable on a couple of thumpin' rockers as she does on some disco pumpin' R & B. This is a friendly-sounding album. Dolly's round and bouncy tones and birdlike leaps and trills are irresistible as usual, and the somewhat sanitary arrangements are enhanced by all-around excellent musicianship. With wide-eyed determination, the affable Ms. Parton's aiming for across-the-board mass popularity. It's a cinch that the gee pee's gonna devour this sugary confection.



LEON REDBONE: "Champagne Charlie" (Warner Bros.)

In a languid, weathered voice, Leon Redbone is a nostalgic throwback to the 20s and 30s era of radio crooners. Actually, he's a meticulous structuralist whose rumblings in the lower register detail stories of loves lost and found. Although he may be dismissed by some folks as a quaint and straightlaced romantic and relegated to the library of vaguely intriguing oddities, I find his music full of heart and enduring passion. With sparsely embroidered acoustic accompaniment that's consistent with the era his material is derived from, his voice is martini-dry and eloquent, but also possessed by an earthy, undulant sensuality. "Champagne Charlie" is timeless music.

STANLEY TURRENTINE: "What About You!" (Fantasy)

The burly Turrentine honks down hard on his tenor sax, but his sound is nimble, playful and light, for the most part. In an extremely commercial setting, with horn, string and vocal arrangements by Ritchie Rome (from disco hitmakers The Ritchie Family), Turrentine's jabbering thrust on the more rhythmic tunes is rubbery, slippery and full of knife-quick acrobatics. On ballads, the implacable Turrentine carves a churning, robust path through the lush arrangements. His current album is a lively, easy-listening set. Though neither the tunes nor the arrangements are particularly compelling, Turrentine's meaty, buzzing phrases and fine sense of timing never become so predictable or flyweight that the listener automatically tunes out.

Book Review

S.F. Teacher's Painful Recollections

MISS GIARDINO

By Dorothy Bryant

Ata Books, 160 pp.

Reviewed by Lynn Rogers

"The faces in the Mission are beautiful," thinks Miss Giardino. She should know -- she has lived here for over 50 years. During that time, she has studied the faces of the waves of immigrants as they washed into the area, fought to obtain jobs and housing and, as they became more affluent, "rolled on over Twin Peaks or down the Peninsula."

As an English teacher at Camino Real High (i.e., Mission High), Anna Giardino struggles to teach the children of these Italian, Irish, poor Southerners, Latinos, blacks and Filipinos to think and to learn. Mostly she does not succeed.

Dorothy Bryant's novel is about many things, but its main theme is the failure of the public school system of San Francisco -- and, by an obvious extension of the components of this failure, of any other public school system in the U. S. -- to make real teaching and learning possible.

Through the use of flashbacks, Bryant takes us over Miss Giardino's 40 years of teaching and makes it clear to us that this failure is not really a recent occurrence brought on by current conditions in our society, but that it is inherent in the system itself. Any system that responds to an incompetent like Willie Fortuna by promoting him to higher and higher office, any system that rewards mediocre teachers like Elva Patterson merely because she never rocks the boat, any system that lets students come to class stoned because they're "less trouble" that way is a system that will never promote real thinking. What it will do is create generation after generation of Americans who have learned to manipulate others into allowing them to be comfortably unchallenged by difficult ideas.

As is true of Bryant's other novels, "Ella Price's Journal" (1972) and "The Kin of Ata Are Waiting for You" (1976), this work has few pretensions to plot. On the surface, it is a week in Anna's life, which begins with her awakening in a hospital bed. She is suffering from amnesia brought on by a blow she received in a presumed mugging. Throughout the week, Anna struggles to recall the details of the incident. But whenever she actually gets close to remembering, she feels a chill of foreboding that makes her wonder if she really wants to know.

Meanwhile, she dreams. Bryant, as any reader of "The Kin" knows, believes that dreams are as important as -- and sometimes more important than -- anything that occurs in waking life. Anna's dreams take her back to Camino High, show her fighting to put out a fire that will destroy it, show her trying to rescue some of her students when she realizes she cannot save the structure, and finally, at the end of the week and the novel, reveal to her the identity of her attacker and the source of her dread of remembering.

The dreams are an obvious subconscious extension of Anna's conscious reflections on her past. The two are skillfully interwoven by Bryant to present the reader with not only Anna's present, but her past as well.

We see her childhood as the first-generation American daughter of an embittered Italian father, her early passion for learning, her love affairs, and most of all, her dedication to teaching. We see the reality behind the image of "retired, old-maid school teacher." When Maria, a former pupil who is now a discouraged teacher at Camino, comes and asks Miss G. why she has taught for 40 years, Anna is astonished by the question. "'Why, because it was my work,' she replied." What else could she do?

Bryant set up her own publishing house when her agent refused to handle her second book, "The Kin", saying it was so bad it would ruin her career as a writer. It has since become an important work to both feminists and dream analysts. Bryant, a former teacher, has since become a fulltime writer and publisher. Her husband helps her run Ata Press in Berkeley. She is a native San Franciscan.

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THE QUESTING PERSON

Ever in search of meaning, The Questing Person goes out among us ever in search of its quest for meaning. Its quest this month:

I WONDER, WONDER, WONDER, WONDER WHO, WHO WROTE THE BOOK OF LOVE?



Billy Price, carpenter: I would assume it was whoever wrote the Kama Sutra.



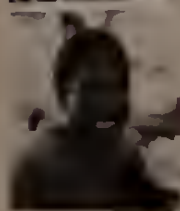
Steve Wynne, unemployed: E. L. Doctorow. He wrote a book called the Book of Daniel, which could have easily been called the Book of Love.



Don Schultz, sandwich-maker: It was co-authored by Anita Bryant and Harvey Milk.



Lisa Feldman, singer-cocktail waitress: Men and women. I mean, we did it ourselves. We make our own beds.



Bruce Thomas, organizer: I think the Book of Love is still being written, and each generation of people who strive for peace and the sharing of themselves and of the world's natural resources is writing it.



Lian Corry, painter: My mother did, because she's the most beautiful thing alive and would help out any brother or sister alive.



Sharon, pool player: The Duke of Earl.



Rich Irl, picture-framer: Many people believe the Book of Love was written in biblical days. I don't think so. It was written by a man who, during a period of his lifetime, made people suffer and therefore could write such a testimonial from experience. I believe the author to be Genghis Khan.



Judith Davis, rock 'n' roll promoter: It hasn't been written yet, but it looks like it will be soon, with any luck at all.



Charles Swan, author (books on love): I wrote the Book of Love. Why? Do you want to buy a copy?

NOE VALLEY CINEMA

Films are shown Fridays at 8 p.m. at James Lick Auditorium, 25th and Noe Streets. \$1 for members, \$1.50 general admission. Phone: 282-5354.

- Oct. 6 Francois Truffaut's "Fahrenheit 451" (1966), with Julie Christie and Oskar Werner, novel by Ray Bradbury; and local filmmaker Dirk Kortz' "Face Diary" (short).
- Oct. 13 Sergei Eisenstein's "Strike!" (1924-25) and Abram Room's "Bed and Sofa" (1927), both U.S.S.R.
- Oct. 20 Benefit for Artists in Response and Noe Valley Cinema: First Films from Famous Directors, including those by Martin Scorsese, Orson Welles, Roman Polanski, Brian de Palma, D. W. Griffith, George Lucas and more. \$2.
- Oct. 27 Halloween Special: Benjamin Christensen's "Witchcraft Through the Ages" (1920) and local filmmaker Coni Beeson's "Firefly".

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Classism

The following is a sampling of neighborhood classes and workshops.

- THE ART OF NATURAL BAKING. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 10 a.m. to noon, Saturdays. \$4 week. For further info., call 282-2317.
- PRESCHOOL DANCE. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Tuesdays, 2:30 to 3:30 and 4 to 5 p.m. Thursdays, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. \$2/class.
- MODERN DANCE by Terry Clark. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Call 648-4194 or 282-2317.
--Beginning Modern Dance, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m., starting Oct. 3. \$15/6 classes \$3/class.
--Beginning Ballet, Thursdays, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Starts Oct. 5.
- DANCE CLASSES taught by Elinor Coleman at Samuel L. Lewis Dance Studio, 3316 - 24th St. 648-0936.
--Intro. to modern-jazz dance, Tues.-Fri., 10 a.m. to 11:15. \$14/4 classes. \$4/1 class.
--Beginning-Intermed. modern jazz, Mon., Wed., Fri., 6:30 to 8 p.m. \$14/4 classes. \$4/1 class.
- MIDDLE EASTERN RHYTHMS. Students learn to accompany live music of the Doumber. Finger cymbals, tambourine, assorted percussion. Thurs. 6 p.m. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. Call 456-9097 for further info. \$4.50.
- HEALTH EDUCATION SEMINARS offers October workshops in "Women's Health Today", "Binges and Bulges", "Health Counseling for Health Professionals" and "Medicine in Literature". Call 626-2044 for further info.
- THE NEEDLE'S EYE, 4071 - 24th St., offers classes in sewing, designer tricks and kimono-making. Call 824-1688.

CALENDAR

- Sept. 23 - Exhibit of Noe Valley Visual Artists.
Oct. 14 Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.
Tues. - Sat., noon to 4 p.m.
- Oct. 1 - Opening Oct. 1 of "Phases of Womanhood"
Nov. 4 soft sculpture by Joan Romaniello. Variations On an On, 4399 - 25th St., 6 to 9 p.m. Gallery hours: 7 to 10 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, or by appt.
- Oct. 2 Intro. to cervical self-exam. Drop-in. English and Spanish spoken. S. F. Women's Health Center, 3789 - 24th St. 7:30 p.m. \$3.
- Oct. 2 Workshops in improvisation, mime and voice. 8-week courses, \$50 to \$90. Theatre of Man, 1350 Waller St. Call 285-3719 for more info.
- Oct. 5 Workshop: exercise during pregnancy. S. F. Women's Health Center, 3789 24th St. 2 p.m. \$2.
- Oct. 6 Forum: How American medicine mistreats women, with Gena Corea, author of "The Hidden Malpractice". Sponsored by S. F. Women's Health Center at UC Extension, 55 Laguna, Rm. 210, 7:30 p.m. \$2.
- Oct. 7 Paint Your Own T-Shirt. (Please bring a t-shirt.) Ages 6 and up. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 2 to 4 p.m.
- Oct. 7 Moire Pulse: Noe Valley musicians play homemade instruments and those of other cultures. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Donation \$2. Senior and children \$1. 8 p.m.
- Oct. 9 Noe Valley Merchants Association meeting. Soup and salad, 6:30 p.m. Business, 7:30 p.m. 1021 Sanchez St.
- Oct. 9 Info. on fertility awareness and natural birth control. S. F. Women's Health Center, 3789 - 24th St. 7:30 p.m. \$1.
- Oct. 11 Films about Imogen Cunningham, Georgia O'Keefe. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 7:30 p.m. Free.
- Oct. 11 "Conversations with Local Artists": Lee Adair, painter; Margaret Meany, painter; Ruby O'Burke, ceramics. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 8 p.m.
- Oct. 11 Benefit for Yes on Prop. U: Renters' Rebate. Country and Irish music. Plough and the Stars, Clement St. between 2nd and 3rd Aves. Door charge, \$2.50. Call 826-3636 for more info.
- Oct. 12 Friends of Noe Valley Steering Committee meeting. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 8 p.m. All welcome.
- Oct. 12 "Freehand", a retrospective of three Noe Valley fiber artists. Opening party, 7 to 9 p.m., Gallery of Fabric Arts, 417 - 14th St. Showing Oct. 3 - Nov. 30.
- Oct. 12 Workshop: practical aspects of caring for the newborn. S. F. Women's Health, 3789 - 24th St. 2 p.m. \$2.
- Oct. 14 Noe Valley Filmmakers and their films. Murrey Mintz, Anne Page, Leonard Levy, Steve Michaels, Jane Aaron and others. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 8 p.m. \$2 adults. \$1 children, seniors.
- Oct. 18 Reception for artist Sarasande Wake, whose recent collages will be on display Oct. 18 to Nov. 30. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 19 Workshop: Discussion of home birth with local midwives, slides. S. F. Women's Health Center, 3789 - 24th St. 2 p.m. \$2.
- Oct. 20 Forum on abortion: history, the opposition, present possibilities. New College, 777 Valencia St. 7:30 p.m. \$2.
- Oct. 21 Printmaking for 6 years old and up. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 2 to 4 p.m.
- Oct. 25 "Conversations with Local Artists": Mark Adams and Ruth Asawa. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 8 p.m.
- Oct. 25 Demonstration of the Feldenkrais Method, awareness through movement. Bring a mat. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 7:30 p.m. Free.
- Oct. 27 Paint a mural inspired by a myth, for ages 6 and up. Wear old clothes. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 4 to 5:30.
- Oct. 28 A Victorian Walk with Judith Waldhorn for children ages 6 and up. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 2-4 p.m.
- Oct. 31 Films for preschoolers: "Little Girl and the Gunniwolf" and more at 10:30 a.m. Films for ages 6 and up at 4 p.m., including "Animation Pie".

Ongoing Events

- At the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.:
- Tuesday Soup Lunch with Special Guests. Informal yoga at 11 a.m., soup at 12:15 p.m.
 - Noe Valley Poetry Workshop. Mondays, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
 - Wholesale Mini-Market for people over 55 years. Tuesdays, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.
 - Women's Exercise group led by Maria Galatti. Wednesdays, 6 to 7 p.m. \$6/12 weeks.
 - Seminar Night: "Explorations into Faith and Action". Wednesdays, 8 to 10 p.m.
 - Folk Dancing. Thursdays, 8 to 10 p.m. \$2.
- At the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St.:
- Community Garden Work Days, second and fourth Saturdays of the month, 9 to 2. Gardeners of all ages welcome.
 - Preschool Story Hours: Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
 - Story Hour for Ages 6 to 10: Thursdays, 4 p.m.